



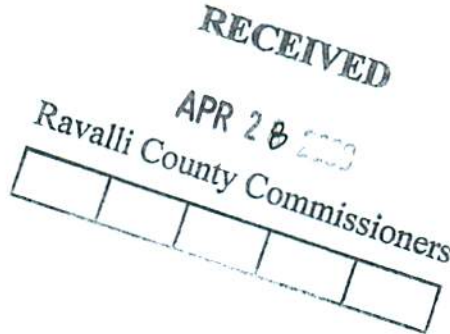
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April 25, 2008

Mr. John Bartos
Hospital Administrator
Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital
1200 Westwood Drive
Hamilton MT 59840



Dear Mr. Bartos:

We are in receipt of the April 2, 2008, letter from Alan Bias regarding billing for patients admitted to Room 301 from July 1, 2007 thru February 27, 2008. It may take us some time to fully respond to that letter. While we have no reason to believe that any of those charges are improper, as I am sure you can appreciate given the public finances involved, the County has an obligation to fully check these amounts and verify that they are proper charges. We will endeavor to submit those charges to the Commissioners for payment as we go through and verify them individually.

I think that it would also be helpful to speak with you regarding the 72-Hour Presumptive Medicaid eligibility and the newly opened Eddy Meuchel Crisis Center. I feel that all of these matters are intertwined. I think that it would be very helpful to meet with yourself, as well as a member or two of the Ravalli County Commission, and perhaps someone from our legislative delegation to discuss these matters. We could certainly involve the entire Commission, although it would then need to be a public meeting.

We may have questions as we work our through that stack of bills, and we will certainly contact Mr. Bias about those. In the meantime, we would like to know if the County is being billed at the Medicaid rate or some other rate.

Sincerely,

Alex Beal
Deputy Ravalli County Attorney

AB/dp

Cc: Alan Bias
Ravalli County Commissioners
Ravalli County Legislative Delegation